

Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grants Program

2007 Grants Summary Report - July 2008

Overview

- Arizona State Legislature identified \$1.5 Million for information technology grants to rural health care providers (47th Legislature; Second Regular Session; Chapter 350, Section 27).
- The 2007 grants were administered by GITA.
- The grant recipients were selected by a competitive grant process open to all rural communities.
- 7 Grants were funded. Awards ranged from \$125,000 to \$375,000, with an average award amount of \$214,000.
- Recipients:
 - 3 consortia of community health centers
 - 3 hospitals with partners
 - 1 behavioral health provider with collaborating entities
- Impact: 178,710 Patients, served by 325 Rural Providers

Grant Recipients	
Benson Hospital	
Benson Hospital replaced its sunset system with a fully certified practice	 A collage of four photographs showing the interior of Benson Hospital. The first shows two men standing in a hallway. The second shows a man standing in a room. The third shows a man in a white lab coat standing in a storage area filled with boxes. The fourth shows the exterior of the hospital building with a sign for 'EMERGENCY'.
management and electronic medical record system that went live on 12/1/2007. Affiliated practitioners also implemented applications. RHITA grant funds provided both hardware and software.	<p>"The staff of the Benson Hospital has been very pleased with the new electronic health records system. Installation, training and go-live of all applications progressed smoothly. Staff is looking forward to going live with patient documentation, which will be the last piece of a well integrated system." <i>Denise Hurtado, CFO</i></p> <p>"Without this grant, we would have never been able to afford an EHR. Though I would have never thought it would be the case, the EHR has helped me to practice better medicine." <i>Andrew W Mayberry, MD, San Pedro Family Care</i></p>
Chiricahua Community Health Centers	
 Two photographs of Chiricahua staff working. The top photo shows two men at a desk looking at a laptop screen. The bottom photo shows a man and a woman standing in an office, with the man holding a tablet device.	Chiricahua and its collaborators upgraded their computing infrastructures and worked to exchange data with the State electronically. An interface to ASCIIS, the State immunization registry, was developed. Templates to generate EPSDT data for electronic submission to AHCCCS were developed. All collaborators used NextGen software and the templates were integrated into their EMR systems. The collaborative will share these templates with other Arizona NextGen users on request, allowing them to share in the benefit of a single entry for the EMR and the EPSDT templates. Both ADHS and AHCCCS supported these collaborators with in-kind assistance.
	<p>"Collaborating organizations would not have been able to afford the interface and support required in getting ASIIS operational or in the development and testing of the EPSDT forms." <i>Gary McPherran, Chiricahua Community Health Center</i></p>

Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grants Program 2007 Grants Summary Report - July 2008

Community Behavioral Health Services

CBHS upgraded its network and implemented the Anasazi Software EMR system designed for the behavioral health community. Through this implementation, CBHS realized the ability to streamline information that is retrievable in minutes not hours for a patient's care; have complete electronic medical records that have reduced the paper related to charting by 75%; and increase time spent with patients which translates into better quality of care.

"Without this grant opportunity, the thought of utilizing an electronic medical record would still be a wish of the organization instead of a reality that is making a difference in the lives of our clients...as well as improving our turnover ratio with staff not burning out as quickly in this field." *Michelle Axlund, CBHS*



Copper Queen Community Hospital



Copper Valley Home Health acquired and installed patient home monitoring devices allowing them to consistently monitor patients with illnesses such as congestive heart failure, diabetes and wounds. The home monitoring program has been so successful that all units acquired with the grant were placed into service, and additional units were ordered to enlarge the program. Because the new monitors can accept data from many additional devices, Copper Valley was able to implement a telecardiology program. This program represents a new and exciting extension of their telemedicine program.

RHITA grant funds were also used to acquire and configure a kiosk and monitor for use by multiple participants at the Bisbee Senior Center.

Copper Queen was able to procure additional funding for a DLT Grant by leveraging the RHITA Grant money as part of their matching funds.

"This grant has improved the availability and quality of home health in rural southern Cochise County. Without this grant we would still be using the 2 old monitors that were given to us by the University of Arizona that did not permit the doctors to view their patient's statistics." *David Churma, Copper Queen Community Hospital*

Marana Health Center

Marana Health Center used RHITA Grant Funds to help offset the large costs associated with exploration, selection and adoption of an Electronic Medical Record application. The network and servers were upgraded in preparation for implementation, and significant savings were realized by purchasing a complete EMR software suite.

Marana also leveraged the RHITA funding to hire needed IT staff, participate in health information exchange formation efforts and create data exchange interfaces with a national reference lab.

Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grants Program

2007 Grants Summary Report - July 2008



"This EMR adoption effort would not have been possible without the assistance provided through the RHITA grant. In fact, MHC would not have considered purchase, deployment or adoption of EMR until late 2010, had it not been for this effort.

We fully intend to continue to leverage our equipment, software and experiences



(staffing), by continuing to work with other Community Health Center partners in our medical trading area." *Adam Delaossa, Marana Health Center*

Mariposa Community Health Center



The Mariposa collaborators are completing a full implementation of a common, hosted Electronic Practice Management System and an Electronic Medical Records system. Their hosted network model provides for significant infrastructure cost savings and allows for sharing of expertise. In addition to improving their efficiency and patient care, they have established a common platform for future participation in health information exchanges.

"Implementation of EMR is cost prohibitive, especially for smaller, rural providers. The grant funds served as a foundation to initiate the project and provided for the

opportunity to receive federal funds," said *Ed Sicurello of MCHC*. "Successful implementation of a hosted network model and development of a platform for participation in health information exchanges is not necessarily unique, however, there are a relatively small number of successful models in the country placing our network 'ahead of the curve' in comparison to many other providers nationally and certainly within the state of Arizona."

Northern Cochise Community Hospital



NCCH replaced its obsolete hospital core IT system, putting in a new server room and installing the certified EPM/EHR software from HMS. The implementation included the practice management system, as well as the pharmacy, nursing and clinical view modules.

"Local healthcare providers now have access to their patient records," said *Jennifer Poulsom of NCCH*. "Some very significant benefits, such as accurate patient billing, automated order entry and increased patient medication safety would not have been accomplished without the grant."



Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grants Program
2007 Grants Summary Report - July 2008

**Communities where Providers are improving services through
 FY2007 RHITA Grants**

GRANT RECIPIENT	COLLABORATING ENTITIES	SERVICE LOCATIONS
Benson Hospital	San Pedro Family Care	Benson
	Progressive Healthcare Group	Benson
Chiricahua Community Health Centers	Canyonlands Community Health Care	Page, Fredonia, Chilchinbeto, Kaibeto, Duncan, Safford, Littlefield, Clifton
	Yavapai County Community Health Services/Community Health Center of Yavapai	Prescott Valley, Prescott, Chino Valley, Cottonwood, Sedona
	Chiricahua Community Health Centers	Elfrida, Douglas, Bisbee
Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS)	Community Behavioral Health Services	Page, LeChee, Kaibeto, Coppermine, Shonto, Fredonia, Colorado City, Littlefield
Copper Queen Community Hospital (CQCH)	Copper Valley Home Health, a division of CQCH	2500 Square Miles in southeastern Cochise County, including Bisbee, Douglas, Elfrida, McNeal, Naco, Pirtleville, Double Adobe and Palominas
Marana Health Center	Sun Life Family Health Center	Casa Grande
	Marana Health Center	Marana
Mariposa Community Health Center with El Rio Community Health Center participating as an unfunded collaborator	Mariposa Community Health Center	Nogales, Rio Rico
	Ajo Community Health Center dba Desert Senita Community Health Center	Ajo
	Sunset Community Health Center	Somerton Wellton, San Luis, Yuma
Northern Cochise Community Hospital (NCCH)	NCCH Medical Clinics	Willcox, Pearce
	Bushman Clinic	Willcox